



# Black & Pink



a family of  
LGBTQ  
prisoners and  
“free world”  
LGBTQA allies  
who support  
each other

## OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

As I write this cover letter two of our prisoner family members are on a hunger strike, fighting for their humanity. So often members of our family, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, queer prisoners, particularly transgender women, are forced into single cell status for “protection.” This so-called protection is forced isolation and also allows guards unrestricted access to harass and assault individuals. Cat and Amazon are on a hunger strike right now and released a statement calling for solidarity. In their statement they put out a call for people to take action and let these women share a cell, but they call for more than that. They call for actions “directly attacking the systems of domination that make living conditions of trans women, both inside and outside prison, a living hell.” Whether we are in prison or on the outside, we have ways we can be in solidarity with Cat and Amazon by fighting alongside them or securing our own justice in similar campaigns for justice.

In this newsletter you will find a couple of different things than usual. One is an advertisement from a publishing company in New York. A dear friend of mine is a co-editor of an anthology of transgender fiction. Far too often transgender people are written about by non-trans people, this is a collection of stories written by transgender people about transgender people. If you want a free copy of the book, please send a letter to the address in the ad on the third page. This is an exciting book, so I hope you get a copy. The second thing you will notice is the pen-pal information form on the 9<sup>th</sup> page. If you have already filled out this form before, you do not need to fill it out again. However, if you have never sent one of these forms in, please fill it out so we can put your information on our website. Unfortunately we are unable to guarantee a pen-pal for anyone, but we are doing our best to increase outreach to free-world folks who would want to start a friendship with someone behind bars. We are, of course, always open to ideas for outreach and recruitment that you might have.

By the time you get this newsletter the election season will be coming to a close. The debates will be over, the campaign ads will be slowing down, and most everyone will be decided on who they are going to vote for. All of this will be over and not one of the candidates will have said anything about putting an end to mass incarceration. All of the posturing will be done and stories will be told about repealing don't ask/don't tell and support for gay marriage, but nothing will be mentioned about the realities impacting our Black and Pink family. W.E.B. DuBois, Black



intellectual and author, wrote in 1956, “I believe that democracy has so far disappeared in the United States that no ‘two evils’ exist. There is but one evil party with two names, and it will be elected despite all I can do or say.” He goes on to talk about the role of big money and corporations in the shaping of elections, “Corporate wealth profits as never before in history. We turn over the national resources to private profit and have few funds left for education, health or housing.” This is a fact that is all too true 56 years later. The question then becomes, what do we do instead? When you look around you how do you organize together to secure some of your own victories? What campaigns do you want to see that would impact your life? In what ways can you make your voice matter? Amazon and Cat are using their bodies to resist, refusing food to build their own power, what works for you?

I close with hope. José Esteban Muñoz, a queer theorist, tells us that we are responsible to create our own “concrete utopias.” We need to create our own real examples of the world we want to see, little queer moments of fabulous living, moments that are possible no matter where we are. We keep doing all of this knowing that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.



In Loving struggle,  
Jason

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# P.L.W.A.

how can you sit & say I'm not in pain  
 when you're sheltered & I'm covered by rain  
 my life and body changed by an unknown act  
 tears flow as my body attacks  
 how do I cope with the unknown fate  
 will I grow old or is it too late  
 I'm confused & want someone to talk to about my health  
 yet everyone's selfish, worried only of their self  
 at night I talk to God, layin on my back  
 but how do I hear answers from a voice that doesn't talk back  
 I try to gain knowledge on my situation  
 but the prison tries to set limitations  
 so where do I turn, where do I start  
 only I understand the fears within my heart

Dedicated to people living with AIDS

-Douglas, Maryland

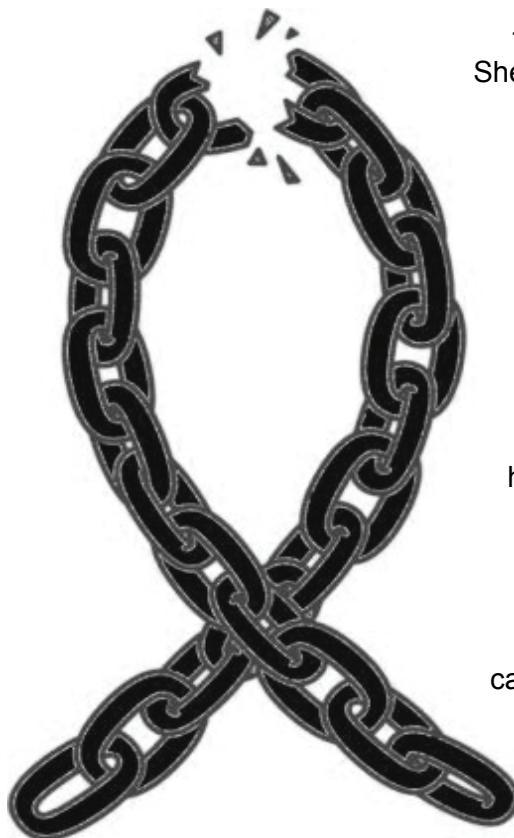


**Hello Friends at Black & Pink,**

It is I, Roger from California. I am a 30 year old Gay male. I've been incarcerated for 2 years but I've been incarcerated by my "condition" for 7 years now. I have not heard too much about those of us living with HIV. I have accepted it, but I still struggle and have my "down" days. This poem is a taste of what lives in me.

The day I got confirmation  
 I could not cry  
 I truly felt that I had died  
 The life I had is not the same  
 It ended for me in chains of shame  
 I could not express this ugly news  
 Caught in the diversity of society's views  
 So I ask myself the If's, What's, and Why's  
 Thinking of the inevitable; I'm going to die  
 How could I have taken that route  
 I thought I knew what it's all about  
 And now a number is all I am  
 Another statistic; a broken lamb  
 This plague I have will never go away  
 It is with me until the bitter end  
 Living with me, with family and friends  
 For I can't even ask to suffer alone  
 It infects them too, their hearts and home  
 For to love me comes with a cost  
 And that's just the beginning of all  
 I've lost

Roger, California



## My Mother

She is a blessing to me  
 She taught me how to love

She taught me how  
 to protect my surroundings  
 She taught me how to believe

She taught me  
 how to care for the weak

**She taught me how  
 to never stop dreaming**

She taught me  
 never to be lazy  
 My mother

**She taught me  
 to believe in myself**

She taught me  
 how the family is supposed  
 to protect each other  
 She was the strength  
 of my family

She taught me  
 that you can take  
 care of family, all by yourself

She is my life  
 My mother

-Juicy, Pennsylvania

Greetings B&P!

This is in comment to Bro. Wolf Blue Eagle's situation (B&P Newsletter May 2012), which is not untypical.

In our situation in the prisons we really have to do for ourselves. While people like the ACLU have done a tremendous and really unrewarded amount of work on our behalf in the courts and streets through the decades that have eased our undue burden, they can only do so much. We must learn to do for self and how to do it. Go to the law library and get up on the law. See what legal self-help resources they have. Do outreach (and not a little) legal and other prisoners' rights groups. Expand your knowledge and ability. Put the junk novels and smut away and learn the rules of the law. Become a jailhouse lawyer. No one can fight for our human dignity better than us. Make prison a camp fire for brain power. We need as much intellectual power as we can accumulate. It's a big fight. It's never too late. Take advantage of it. Start now.

If prisoners are found guilty of a rule or law violation in the course of protecting their health and life because prison guards "would not help," then on the surface it seems they may have a legal claim under the 8th Amendment (Cruel and Unusual Punishment) for failure to protect that resulted in personal injuries (rape, mental health issues, criminal charges, additional prison sentence). Especially if they had foreknowledge of the threat, which can be evidenced by their taunts (e.g. "Stop complaining or we'll put you with sex fiends where you'll get raped"). Get busy. Crack the books. Go for it. The housing of fags in the hole for their protection where there is no formal safe-housing program is addressed differently by the courts. Research the rulings and work with the favorable ones. The prisons aren't going to give us anything on a platter; we must take it. Go to the Law Lab. Do the math. Or don't complain. Sounds tough, I know, but most of us came up that way and recognize. There are no free rides in this fight. Of course, there should be safe-housing in all prisons, though it's best to do away with prisons. Until that time, it's all on us to survive. Do your part. It's a collective, community fight, and every effort matters.

On another note.... Gender Anarky is a political party of Transsexual women in prison and society. It is the only Transsexual political party in the world. Among other things, we do administrative litigation in prison and file lawsuits in courts for our so-called legal rights, which we have little faith in but must deal with all the same. We are also a hands-on self-defense mechanism, whatever it takes. Our society activities support our in-prison agenda, in addition to dealing with our reality "out there," however required. Although Gender Anarky Party originated in California (where there are hundreds of Transsexual women in the 33 state-jurisdiction prisons) and is steadily growing, we are national and international and extend to other prisons, states, and countries (e.g. Mexico, Canada) to encourage our sisters to take an active, visible stand for our freedom and to establish the Party where they are. A broader scope of the Party's short and long range "Program and Strategy" is detailed in the January 2011 issue of our official publication, Gender Anarky Zeen. We are currently setting up a website and will give notice in fag media. Gender Anarky is neither Left nor Right but Pan-Transsexual and is militant oriented, radical, and zealous in our fight, which comes first. As well, we have solidarity with other, progressive sectors of the overall fag community in our common endeavors. Join Gender Anarky Party. Set up a column in your area. We are always recruiting. Currently we may be reached via: Robyn @ CFIL, PO Box 471885, Chicago, IL, 60647.

Let us hear from you!

Sister Amazon

Chair, Speaker, Gender Anarky Party

*Editor's Note: As of 9/29/12, two members of Gender Anarky Party in San Diego, Amazon and Catrina, were on hunger strike demanding to be able to cell together. Black & Pink stands in solidarity!!!*

# THE COLLECTION

SHORT FICTION FROM THE TRANSGENDER VANGUARD

THE COLLECTION is 28 new short stories featuring transgender characters by writers in the US and Canada. Literary fiction [non-erotic] in English about trans women, trans men and genderqueer characters.

Available at no cost to transgender and queer prisoners. To request a free copy of this new book, write the publisher at the address below and include your mailing information. If you have restrictions on packages, please include that information.

WRITE TO:



TOPSIDE PRESS

228 Park Avenue South  
#1426I  
New York NY 10003

Books are partially funded by donations, there may be a wait list. Please be patient.

Peace & Blessings!

How is everyone doing? I got my first newsletter [in March] and when I read the correspondence part of the newsletter and people saying what they are going through with the C.O.'s over being gay. This happens as a result of ignorance on the behalf of society. The only way there will be justice is by pen & paper. Everyone has a right to peace and on top of that our LGBTQ Community has specific rights as well. I have put this together just to let the people know the basic rights that we have.

- ▽ You can use a Section 1983 Lawsuit to **challenge prison violations**. What is a Section 1983? It comes from Section 1983 of Title 42 of the United States code. Congress passed Section 1983 to allow us to sue in federal court when a state or local official or C.O. violates our rights.
- ▽ **Statute of Limitations:** For suits where you will be asking for money damages, there is a "Statute of Limitations" which sets a deadline for how long you can wait after the events occurred before you start your suit.
- ▽ **Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies:** The PLRA states that "No action shall be brought with respect to prison conditions...by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted." 420 U.S.C.A. §1997 e (a). This means you must use all the steps in the prison complaint or grievance system and write up your concerns in detail. Appeal it all the way and save your paperwork.
- ▽ **Your rights have been violated** if you have experienced any of these: guard or prisoner brutality or harassment; Unsafe cell or prison conditions; Censorship, or extremely limited mail, phone, or visit privileges; Inadequate medical care; Interference with practicing your religion; Inadequate food; Racial, sexual or ethnic discrimination; Placement in the hole without a hearing.
- ▽ **Verbal Harassment.** In Murray v. U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 106F. 3D 401 (6th Cir 1997), Michelle Murray, a transgender woman, tried to sue over a series of harassing comments about her bodily appearance and her presumed sexual preference. The Court dismissed the claim, saying that verbal abuse alone does not rise to the level of "unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain" necessary for an Eighth Amendment violation.
- ▽ **Rape and Sexual Assault:** Some Courts have inferred that prison officials knew of the risk based on a plaintiff's feminine appearance, small size, youthfulness, or reputation as a drag queen or "known homosexual". Taylor v. Mich. Dept of Corrections, 69 F. 3d 76 (6th Cir 1995), Jones v. Banks, 878 F. Supp. 107 (N.D.Ill. 1995). In arguing to the Court that the person did not adequately protect you, it might be helpful to mention the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003, which lists transgender prisoners within the category of "potentially vulnerable prisoners" that deserve special attention and monitoring.

These are just some of our rights, this info is from the Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook 5th edition, 2010. You can get a free copy of this handbook from:

**National Lawyers Guild, National Office, 132 Nassau Street, Room 922, New York, NY 10038.** [Editor's note: Their website states "to receive a hard copy, please mail \$2.00 in money order, check, or stamps"].

Education is freedom and now knowing yours is an atrocity. So arm yourself with the pen & paper and knowledge, then go to war!

Peace My Black & Pink Family,  
Mr. Williams



Dear B&P,

I too am gay and Christian, like others who have written. I don't believe in churches or the Bible. However, I am very religious and believe in God. I pray many times every day. God has always been with me. There are many religions, but there is only one God! My little religion says it's OK to be gay, God still loves me. I am gay and at peace.

Stay Strong, but Stay Yourself, Lots-a-Love,  
DD

God  
LoVes  
Me

Dear Black 'n Pink,

My name is Jessica and I am a transsexual currently incarcerated in Texas. My purpose for writing is to tell everyone that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice has adopted a policy effective 5/16/12 for providing medical care to prisoners with Gender Identity Disorder ("GID"). Under the new policy, inmates with GID will be able to continue the same hormone therapy they were prescribed before being incarcerated, and even if a prisoner with GID was not receiving hormone therapy before incarceration, the prison will be able to initiate hormone therapy while incarcerated in accordance with current accepted standards of care. There is no longer any requirement that a prisoner must be due for release within 180 days or that the prisoner must plan to undergo sex-reassignment surgery upon release.

Please pass this good news to all the girls in Texas prisons as it has been a long awaited battle with these people of course I had some help from the ACLU / GLBT in New York in advocating for me and explaining the importance and how the old policy was unconstitutional. Thank you very much!

Respectfully,  
Jessica, Texas

**Treatment of Offenders with Gender Disorders G-51.11 ([www.cmhcc.state.tx.us](http://www.cmhcc.state.tx.us))**

*Editor's Introduction: Thank you Jessica! The language used and procedures described in this revised Correctional Managed Health Care Policy Manual is awful and infuriating—while this is a hard fought victory, we do not have to settle. For example, how can someone be "suspected of being intersexual"? And why must the medical evaluation emphasize genitalia? Why is medically necessary surgery still not covered?*

I. An offender suspected of being intersexual will be referred immediately to an approved medical center for diagnosis and treatment. If the offender declines recommended treatment, TDCJ Classification and Health Services will determine appropriate housing to meet the offender's medical and mental health needs while assuring the safety of the offender who is intersexual and other offenders.

II. An offender with documented or claimed transsexual or Gender Identity Disorder (GID) will receive thorough medical and mental health evaluations.

A. The offender will be continued on the same hormone regimen, if any, in effect upon arrival to TDCJ.

B. Concerted effort will be made to expeditiously obtain the offender's prior medical and psychological records.

C. Medical evaluation will include a complete physical examination with special emphasis on the genitalia and secondary sex characteristics.

D. Mental Health evaluation will be conducted by a qualified mental health professional (QMHP). If conducted by a non-psychiatrist, the evaluation and any supporting information must be reviewed by a psychiatrist. Only a licensed psychiatrist may make the diagnosis of GID within TDCJ.

E. If there are differences of professional opinion as to diagnosis or need for hormone therapy, a special multidisciplinary GID committee shall convene to review the case and make a final determination. This committee will include Regional or Senior mental health and medical directors from each University and TDCJ medical and mental health representatives appointed by the Director of the Health Services Division. The GID committee

III. When a diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder is made –

A. Mental health counseling will be offered.

B. Current, accepted standards of care and the offender's physical and mental health will determine if advancement of therapy is indicated.

1. If hormone therapy is indicated, hormone therapy will be requested through the non-formulary process.

Documentation of patient education and written consent are required prior to submission of the non-formulary request (see Attachments A-1 and A-2).

2. If hormone therapy is prescribed, the offender will be followed in chronic care clinic with regular assessments for complications of hormone therapy (e.g. hypertension, liver disease, heart disease, breast cancer, etc.).

IV. The University Directors of Mental Health Services and University Regional or Senior Medical Directors will be the approving authorities for treatment plans and hormone therapy related to GID.

V. Facility medical staff will assure the facility warden and TDCJ Health Services Liaison are immediately notified of all offenders alleging or presenting with signs or symptoms of a gender disorder.

# Serving The People and Retaliation of the Oppressors

Revolutionary Greetings!

One of the main precepts and pillars of all pro-active revolutionary movements in the concept of Serving The People (STP). However, many times this concept is not practiced by the New Generation Panther members. It is imperative that comrades within and outside of the Prison Industrial Complex embrace STP and here are some suggestions on how to achieve this mandatory prerequisite of Pantherism.

For me, Serving The People starts with Education: Political, Historical, Self-Defense, Military, and Survival Education and Training. Who were Huey, Bobby, George, and Angela, and what part did they play



in our formation? Who were Mao, Lenin, and Marx? Why are their Political teachings so important to us? Why is it necessary to teach our children and youth Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Jui-Jitsu, and how to fire accurately and clean assault rifles? Wilderness training, canning food, and homesteading to name just a few survival topics. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

There has been an all out War declared on out Black, Brown, and Poor white inner-city youth. The so called soldiers of this corrupt Capitalist regime wear navy blue jackets with various Government agencies emblazoned on their backs- FBI, DEA, ATF, and DHS to name a few. They creep into our neighborhoods using covert and overt para-military tactics aimed at killing or incarcerating our young men and women in their modern day gulags and torture chambers, better known as Communication Management Units. How do we save our black, brown, white, and other oppressed children from such a fate? Believe it or not, it starts with something as simple as a Free Breakfast and/or Lunch Program.

In today's America the unemployment rate in the New Afrikan community is the highest is has been since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Don't think for one minute there are not little black, brown, and white stomachs suffering the pangs of hunger in an Amerikkka which only caters to the "Haves" of society and turns her back completely on the have-nots. So many times, the beginning of transforming a victim mindset to a Revolutionary State of Mind starts with filling a hungry stomach with a hot nutritious meal and then filling the mind with the teachings that will literally push the boot of the oppressor off the neck of the oppressed. Our elder Panther brothers and sisters utilized the Free Breakfast "strategy" and it worked. Today, Comrades like Comrade Hybachi in Chicago, have successfully utilized the "strategy." You would be surprised how effective a hot breakfast and some revolutionary material could be in your neighborhood.

The bottom line is the conditions are ripe for a VIOLENT overthrow of this current Government. Inside these Penitentiary walls, there is a Serve The People strategy being promoted. The STP strategy manifests itself in the education of inmates as to their Legal Rights and teaching them how to use their intellect to fight against the degradation and humiliation tactics of these crafty and wicked Prison Administrators. However, sometimes a situation presents itself where one has to get personally involved because the person being abused or oppressed is ill-equipped mentally or physically to defend him or herself.

Case in Point: On March 14, 2012 at approximately 6:05 pm myself and a Fellow Comrade on the unit we are on in Texas watched as a Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correctional Officer who last name is Beverly maliciously and sadistically slammed the hand of a elderly, blind hispanic male in the doorway of the chow hall. The elderly blind inmate Mr. Flores was not offered help or aid from the officer- he was in fact cursed at and threatened with a disciplinary case. Another offender escorted Mr. Flores to medical where his fingers were wrapped with clear tape! No gauze or anti-biotic ointment was applied. Comrade Red and myself began a letter writing campaign on behalf of Mr. Flores, *Continued on Page 7*

Continued from Page 6: who does not speak english nor does he have a clear understanding of the Administrative Remedy Process. In a nutshell, Mr. Flores is the proverbial “victim” this this draconian and barbaric system preys upon. Comrade Red and myself not only filed grievances, we wrote detailed letters to the Texas State Legislator Senator John Whitmire. We wrote the Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice- Oliver Bell. I wrote lawyers at the Texas Civil Rights Project and Prison Advocates Joan Covici and Michael Jewell of Con-Care Services. And what did our efforts produce? Retaliation at the hands of the oppressors! I was targeted by known racist members of this Prison staff. I was written bogus and fabricated cases for 1. Facing the wrong way in the hallway and 2. Blocking the entrance to the Chow hall. I was given close to 60 days of Commissary and Recreation Restriction and prior to this incident I never incurred a disciplinary that warranted more than 15 days of any kind of restriction. I appealed to the Administration to intervene and as a result- nothing happened. In fact, to add insult to injury, the guilty officer Beverly was promoted to Sergeant!

This action in itself speaks volumes. It says- We the Administration of this unit condone, support, and promote the abuse and maltreatment of the elderly and infirm men housed at this facility. Now I am sitting in a 24-hr lock down environment. The lesson learned is when you commit yourself sincerely to Serving The People, it comes with a price.

Comrade Red has initiated a “Watch the Pigs” program here on the unit where he monitors and records acts of abuse and gross negligence or TDCJ staff and officers. We have learned that TDCJ administrators do not and will not hold their officers accountable for their actions when they transgress the boundaries. With that being said, we are attempting to form close cooperative relationships with the media, journalists, and various watch-dog agencies who believe in shedding light on injustices such as this. There have been numerous deaths at this facility and our esteemed U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is weak as ice-water when it comes to initiating pro-active and fact-finding investigations of this prison and their barbaric staff. U.S. Attorney General Holder call Americans “Cowards” he need only take a long hard look in the bathroom mirror in the morning and he will see what a true Coward looks and acts like!

In closing, I must say that there is a strong undercurrent of Racism and Anti-semitism that exists on this particular unit. We must band together to combat and defeat this racist monster which is being allowed to run amok. We must teach our children that welling drugs in our communities is a dead end trap.

Without a doubt the “Alphabet Boys” will continue to “visit” our inner-city neighborhoods to harass and execute individuals they label as a “threat.” However, when we cease the sale and distribution of Drugs and Alcohol without our neighborhoods we take away one of the main factors that draw these fake Doers of Righteousness from coming into our neighborhoods in the first place. We live in a country where a young man with brown skin can be executed simply for walking home with a pack of skittles candy and a soda bottle. More than ever before there is a need for the true spirit of the Panther. Remember Trayvon Martin, remember Oscar Grant. Long live General T.A.C.O.!

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win, All Power to the People, In Solidarity,

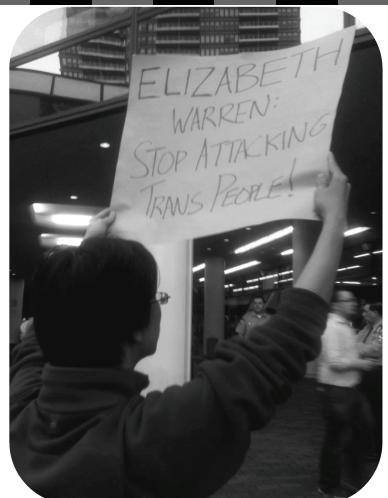
Comrade Malik, High security Super Seg Lock Down, Texas

N.A.B.P.- P.C.

New Afrikan Black Panther Party- Black Riders Liberation Party



Some of the Human Rights Campaign’s awful sponsors are shown below (from hrcboston.org). Black and Pink protested (See page 8) on 9/22. Pictures on the right!



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Bank of America

Raytheon

bp



Goldman Sachs



# Black & Pink Celebrates Michelle Kosilek's Victory; Healthcare is a Human Right!

*Black & Pink issued the following statement on our website:*

Black & Pink joins Michelle Kosilek in her celebration of winning access to gender affirming surgery due to a decision handed down by U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf. We celebrate Kosilek's victory as she has won access to medically necessary surgery. Kosilek and her doctors have fought for nearly 10 years for access to this surgery; for many in her position that length of time would be unbearable. All people, regardless of gender, race, class, incarceration status, or any other identity marker, should be entitled to adequate and humane health care; it is a travesty that this is not a reality in the United States today. Kosilek's access to necessary care should be the norm rather than the exception. This ruling reminds us all of the enormous amount of work there is still to be done.

Transgender individuals and communities are disproportionately impacted by lack of and inadequate health care, whether that be access to mental health clinicians, hormone therapies, surgeries, or even the basics of a safe primary care physician. Kosilek's victory should not divide LGBTQ communities, but rather inspire work for greater access to healthcare for all. Not all transgender people want or need gender affirming surgeries, but anyone who does should have full access to it, whether they are in prison or not. It was recently reported by a National Business Group on Health survey that more and more companies are covering gender affirming medical care from hormone therapy to surgeries. Other employers, and certainly MassHealth, should follow in this trend.

An unspoken and pivotal aspect of the Kosilek case is the impact of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). In 1996 Congress passed the Act that supposedly reduces the number of "frivolous" lawsuits coming before the courts. In reality it has resulted in greater suffering in prisons and the refusal of courts to get adequately involved. In 2009 Human Rights Watch released a 50-page report on the Prison Litigation Reform Act and declared that the PLRA violates human rights, stating in the report that, "the PLRA in many cases operates to deprive prisoners of an effective remedy—or indeed, any remedy at all—for violations of their rights."

Even with the outrageous requirements of the PLRA, Kosilek was able to show "deliberate indifference" in the prison's refusal to provide medically necessary care. Judge Wolf even stated that former Commissioner of Corrections, and current self-proclaimed prison reformer, Kathleen Dennehy's real reasons for denying Kosilek Gender Affirming Surgery was not due to real issues of security but rather the Commissioner's "fear of controversy, criticism, ridicule and scorn." While Kosilek's case sets precedent for a particular health need, the case does nothing to challenge the continued abuses of the Prison Litigation Reform Act.

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project describes how "overpolicing and profiling of low income people and of trans and gender non-conforming people intersect, producing a far higher risk than average of imprisonment, police harassment, and violence for low income trans people." They go on to describe that once confined to a prison consistent with their birth sex, prisoners are often "Denied access to hormones and other trans-specific health care... Forced to change gendered characteristics of appearance in prison (made to cut hair, give up prosthetics, clothing). This results in mental anguish and increased exposure to harassment and violence because appearance may conform even less to gender identity." Black and Pink recognizes that denial of gender affirming surgery is but one form of abuse experienced by transgender people in prison, in addition to sexual, physical, verbal and mental abuse. The abuse of transgender people in prison, particularly transgender women of color, is pervasive and part of a larger system of oppression.

Black and Pink will fight alongside prisoners, such as Kosilek and Ophelia De'Lonta in Virginia, for immediate access to basic needs, but our struggle is for an end to mass incarceration and the abolition of the prison industrial complex. The only way to create the healthy communities we strive for is to include campaigns that shut prisons down; that end criminalization of people of color, LGBTQ people, poor people, im/migrants, Muslims, political dissidents and others; and that lift up transformative justice practices rather than punishment. We encourage all people to get involved and to include an analysis of the prison industrial complex in their work towards justice. *Sadly, the Commonwealth of MA has announced that it will appeal Kosilek's victory.*

*On Saturday 9/22/12, Black & Pink quickly organized a small protest of the Human Rights Campaign HRC) gala in Boston. The event was \$250 per plate at a Marriott Hotel. HRC, a gay lobby focused on marriage which receives funding from terrible big corporations featured senate candidate Elizabeth Warren. Warren had recently issued a statement regarding Kosilek's surgery stating: "I don't think it's a good use of taxpayer dollars". 15 of us held signs and chanted "HRC! Corporate Sellouts! HRC Get the Hell Out!" and "Trans Prisoners are Under Attack! Elizabeth Warren Turned Her Back!". See Page 7!*



# Black & Pink Pen-Pal Information Form

Volunteers updated our database so that we can include more information on our website about prisoners seeking "free world" pen-pals including pictures, webpages and documents. Please mail this form to **Black and Pink –Form**, and include a picture & "first letter" written to a potential new pen-pal for us to scan if you wish!

"I agree to this information being posted online." Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pronoun (she/he/ze): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check  the types of pen-pal relationships you are interested in:

(Please note most "free world" pen-pals that visit our website are *not* interested in romantic or sexy letters)

	Having a pen-pal friendship		Having a pen-pal romance
	Writing about social justice or activism		Writing sexy/erotic letters

Please provide this information if you want! People can search these items on our website:

Age & Birth date	/	/	In Solitary Confinement?					
Race				Does anyone write you now?				
Gender				How many people write?				
Sexuality				Specific types of pen-pals you are looking for:				
Faith								
Non-English Language								
Release Date?				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can you get mail from / write to <b><i>all other prisoners</i></b> ?	No, I can't!	Yes, I can!		
HIV Status ( <i>private</i> )								

Tell us about who you are (for example, your background, hobbies and interests, beliefs, situation, etc!):

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If you have a webpage: [www.](http://www.) \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have permission to display a picture of you from a corrections website? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Names and email addresses of any current pen-pals so we can involve them in Black and Pink:

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Your address, email and phone upon release (if applicable) so that we can keep you involved in the family:

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**Keep in Touch w/ Black & Pink**  
**Black & Pink—{Insert topic tag here}**  
**c/o Community Church of Boston**  
**565 Boylston Street**  
**Boston, MA 02116**



If you would like to request:	Please use this topic tag, and we'll do our best:
<b>Newsletter Subscriptions</b> (Start or Stop)	<b>Newsletter Subscriptions</b>
<b>Newsletter Submissions</b> (Poems & Stories)	<b>Newsletter Submissions</b>
<b>“Outside” Free Pen-Pal Ad form request</b>	<b>Pen-Pal</b>
<b>Address Change</b> (Will take time to update; at this time, we are mostly unable to send back issues.)	<b>Address Change</b>
<b>Black &amp; Pink Organization Feedback</b>	<b>Developing Leadership</b>
<b>Request Erotica</b>	<b>Erotica</b>
<b>Religious Support</b>	<b>Religion</b>
<b>Volunteering</b> (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	<b>Volunteer</b>
<b>Advocacy Requests</b> (include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help)	<b>Advocacy</b>

**LEGAL:** Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. "Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work." **Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585**

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to:

**Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303**

**SURVIVORS:** Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor.

**Ms. Chris Daley, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010**

**BLACKANDPINK.ORG**

**BLACKANDPINKMEMBERS@GMAIL.COM**

**Look to the Future  
Dedicated to Black & Pink Family**

As you journey down life's golden path  
 It will be filled with pain and sorrow  
 At times it may be filled with a brighter tomorrow  
 Keep alive your hopes and your dreams  
 Never give up your pride and self-esteem  
 Reach beyond  
 Never lose sight of your golden pond  
 Keep your spirit alive and your heart free for love  
 For peace in life is as free as a dove  
 Keep alive your dreams and heart free from sorrow  
 And when you grow older and your hair is gray  
 Keep your memories alive and in your heart each day  
 Never forget the path you chose to take along the way  
 -Greg, Missouri